

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. Claim 1, which is the only independent claim, is hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, specifically at page 21. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled. The Title is hereby amended, thereby obviating the objection.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 9-219842 to Imai in view of U.S Patent No. 6,603,737 to Fukunaga et al. Applicants have reviewed the rejection and respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

“...output means for including the character data information of the electronic program guide stored by said storage means into a packet compliant with the IEEE 1394 standard and outputting said packet to said printer independent of a vector font...” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 9-219842 to Imai relates to a system that is capable of obtaining a record of a content program list. When content program output processing is started by the operation of a content key, character data is analyze/ extract-processed by a data analyzing and extracting part (shown as element 330). During the analyzing and extraction processing, program managing data is monitored, all the pieces of information included in it are read and all the data of a program is stored. Data related to the character broadcast program and the title of the channel are stored. Data that is stored in a program number and title storage section (shown as element 350), namely the program numbers and titles is edited in a format that enables a user to view it. The content program, which includes the processed program name and title is outputted to a printer. A paper copy that records the list of the content program is outputted from the printer.

As understood by Applicants, U.S Patent No. 6,603,737 to Fukunaga et al. relates to a data transmission system in which an image providing device and a printer are directly connected by a 1394 serial bus. A command is sent from the image providing device to the printer, then a response to the command is returned from the printer to the image providing device. Image data is sent from the image providing device to the printer based on information included in the response. The printer converts the image data outputted from the image providing device into print data.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in the cited portions of Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 9-219842 to Imai (hereinafter, merely “Imai”) or U.S Patent No. 6,603,737 to Fukunaga et al. (hereinafter, merely “Fukunaga”) that would teach or suggest the output means as recited in claim 1.

Indeed, Applicants submit that the combination of Imai and Fukunaga teaches away from amended independent claim 1 since both references teach outputting data in a specific format. Applicants submit that an “output means for...and outputting said packet to said printer independent of a vector format...”, as recited in claim 1, would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of a combination of references that teach formatting the output.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Claims 2 and 3 are dependent from claim 1 discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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